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11-27-1981

SRP and DWP appeared at 41 N. Church Street at 10 A.M. and DJB and Tom Brennan were there; we chatted about what has happened and what we should do to raise money, i.e., the fund raising possibilities of the great local interest in repairing the clock. I suggested that a logo (the T. I. Lacey cut) be given to all reports published in THE NEWS about the restoration project. DJB seemed to like the idea and took the copy of the cut that I had. We (DJB, DWP, Tom Brennan and I) that we should have bi-weekly meetings--on Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M. in Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall. We then went to City Hall. On the way we stopped to meet the representative of The Scranton Tribune on N. Church Street: DJB knows him and he introduced DWP and myself and told about the restoration project. We then proceeded down Main Street and we made another stop--in a clothing store, where we were introduced to the President (?) of the Merchants Association of Carbondale (?). Then on to City Hall, where we met RTP and all of us ascended the tower of the building and inspected the clock. Very exciting. Tom Brennan knows about clocks and he caused the clock to strike and it was very, very exciting. RTP declared the building to be in very good shape--it has just been neglected and it needs attention. Structurally it is very sound. I was very pleased to hear his report. There is a great deal of pigeon manure in the tower and it is causing damage to the floor boards in the towers. It will have to be removed and the entrances for the pigeons blocked. We discovered the old Greek Revival roof under the Romanesque Revival roof of the oldest part of the City Hall and it was like finding a Roman statue in the River Tiber. Very exciting. We toured all of the floors of the building and did the outside of the building. In so doing we met the Mayor (Fred J. Mancuso) and got him involved in the project. We were introduced to him by DJB, the Editor of THE CARBONDALE NEWS. We then repaired to the Mayor's chambers where we continued our discussion. The Mayor is very sympathetic. We chatted for 20 minutes to a half-hour in the Mayor's chambers. DWP spotted the painting of James Archbald on the wall and asked for permission to photograph it. He did so while the Mayor and the rest of us chatted. DWP asked the Mayor if there were any other paintings or photographs in the City Hall and the Mayor pointed to a pile of 8 or 9 crayon portraits in the next room. Later in the day DWP photographed them. We parted company in front of City Hall. Great progress has been made and I am extremely optimistic. With the Mayor and the Editor of THE CARBONDALE NEWS on our side, how can we fail. At 1:00 P.M. DWP went to the dentist and I went home with RTP. I met DWP at the Library at 2 P.M. and presented Miss Muldoon with a copy of NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY REPRINTS, VOLUME I. She was very, very pleased. DWP reported that Horlacher's son is a partner in the architectural firm of Horlacher and Palumbo, a firm which is presently restoring Forest City City Hall. Horlacher said he would talk to his son, and later in the week I will meet with the son. After the Library, we went back to City Hall and DWP photographed the crayon portraits, and then we went home to dinner. It was an extraordinary day.

I promised DJB I would have a history of City Hall to him for publication in THE CARBONDALE NEWS in about 10 days. He was pleased. He wants, as I recall, about three, double-spaced typed pages. That should be easy enough. I told him I could supply him with about 6 complete newspaper pages with no trouble, and he said that that would be too much.

On Sunday afternoon, after our "hot meal" at home, DWP and I looked at City Hall from the family voiture. DWP described and I wrote down the description of this very extraordinary building. DWP's description will be the nucleus of the description of the building that is submitted on the BHP application.

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12-03-1981: Thursday

I arrived at Martz in Scranton at 5:55 P.M. and was met by WSP and HLRP who took me to Box 29 and there I changed my clothes and went off to the meeting in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of Carbondale City Hall which began at 7:30. DJB was the only person there when I arrived--of course I was early. About 12 people arrived (John Buberniak, Nan Loftus, Jean Colville, Mr. Pascoe, Tom Brennan, Bob Tomaine, John Buberniak's mother, Jim Brownell, a couple of others in addition to DJB and myself); WNEP was there and they photographed DJB and myself and "part of the crowd" and I was glad when they left; later the meeting was reported on the 11 o'clock news, and WSP and HLRP saw it--I did not see it. Committees were formed: Jean Colville and Nan Loftus--the fund raising media event on 12-17-1981 in charge; it was decided to have a 50/50 raffle; I handed out my legal-sized "Why Was the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall Formed" flyer and it met with popular approval; plans for the media event on the 17th were discussed--see proposed timetable of 12-07-1981 that was formulated by SRP; the meeting was very successful--dedicated workers were present and they will "carry the ball" in Carbondale while I take care of what I can at this typewriter; after the meeting Bob Tomaine asked me to join him for coffee and I did at Dunkin Donuts where we remained from about 9:30 to 2:30 in the morning. Bob Tomaine knows a great deal about railroads, railroad villages (including Underwood), and is very fond of old buildings. He will take photographs of CCH for the application for inclusion on the national and state registers of historic buildings; five of DWP's photographs will also be used. Around midnight Nan Waters came in to Dunkin Donuts and I told her the complete story of how the Committee to Restore Carbondale City became aligned with THE NEWS. She gave her life story. It was agreed that I would see Paul Starzer on Friday and give THE MIRROR some exclusive stories on the CCH restoration project. On Friday morning, 12-04-1981, I called Tom Horlacher of Horlacher and Palumbo in Scranton and we talked about the building for about 30 minutes: I will meet with him on 12-17-1981 at 10 A.M.; about midday I went into Carbondale and distributed in offices and stores the "Why" flyer named above about Carbondale--all of the offices in the First National Bank, the Liberty Bank, K. Timmons, Reynolds, and then stopped at THE NEWS to see DJB and I got a progress report. On Saturday morning I met DJB and JB at THE NEWS office and we distributed the "Why" memo all over Carbondale. JB and I did so as a team. We met some very friendly faces in so doing and we met some not so friendly faces in so doing. We did it from 9 to 11:30, at which time we met back at The News; at noon JB and I left and I asked him if he would like to help me pick up garbage in Maplewood and so I went into The Big Chief and bought some large trash bags and off we went to the Cemetery where we picked up about 6 large bags of beer bottles and trash; JB is very enthusiastic and moved about righting knocked over tombstones. He is an extraordinary young man and I am delighted to have him help me in my preservation efforts in Carbondale. I shall get him involved in the Maplewood Cemetery Association if I can. About mid-afternoon we went to Dunkin Donuts and chatted and then I drove him home. Exhausted, I went home and reported all that had been done and then asked HLRP if I could invite Cousin Peg up to dinner and she said ok and Peg seemed to be delighted to come; very pleasant dinner: sirloin steak erroneously cooked in the manner of pot roast. On Sunday I didn't do much of anything; got an early afternoon bus back to New York. On Saturday night Jean Colville called at The Homestead to report on her media event activities and that was nice; the Presbyterian Church bells are electronically set and will not be able to ring on the 17th; the Episcopalian, Methodist and Baptist and the Hendrick horn will, I hope all ring. HLRP and WSP gave \$50 to the cause; HLRP has marked "6:45" on her calendar for the 17th so she and WSP will probably be there.